IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 26 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend the remaining claims, as follows:

1. to 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A storing structure for storing an ink jet head, wherein said ink jet head comprises a nozzle for discharging liquid, a liquid storing portion for storing the liquid to be supplied to ~~aid~~ said nozzle, and a liquid introduction portion for introducing the liquid into said liquid storing portion from exterior, said liquid storing portion being divided into a first chamber communicated with said nozzle and a second chamber communicated with said liquid introduction portion by a filter, ~~said liquid introduction portion being provided with an elastic member having a slit,~~ said storing structure comprising:

a storing ~~container having a container member and a lid~~ member to contain said ink jet head; and

a cap for covering a nozzle face of said ink jet head in a non-contact state with respect to the nozzle face,

wherein said liquid introduction portion is provided with an elastic member having a slit,

wherein ink not including a color material is contained in said nozzle of said ink jet head and air is present in an area other than said nozzle in the ink jet head, and

wherein air in said ink jet head is capable of moving between an interior of the ink jet head and an exterior side of said ink jet head through said slit.

20. (Previously Presented) A storing structure according to Claim 19, wherein a liquid absorbing member is disposed in said cap to maintain a space within the cap to a wetting condition.

21. (Previously Presented) A storing structure according to Claim 19, wherein in a state where an internal pressure of said ink jet head rises, said slit is opened to communicate an interior of the ink jet head and the exterior of the ink jet head.

22. (Previously Presented) A storing structure according to Claim 19, wherein a dome shaped elastic member is provided in said second chamber and said dome shaped elastic member also functions as a head internal pressure adjustment mechanism upon storing the ink jet head.

23. (Currently Amended) A storing structure according to Claim 19, wherein said ink jet head is stored and sealingly housed in a bag made of material of a low gas permeability, and said storing member comprises a bag.

24. (Withdrawn) A storing structure according to Claim 23, wherein said ink jet head is held within a tray in an inclined condition.

25. (Previously Presented) A storing structure according to Claim 23, wherein the bag made of material of low gas permeability is an aluminum bag.

26. (Cancelled)

Please add Claims 27 to 30, as follows:

27. (New) A storing structure according to Claim 19, wherein said slit is formed by inserting a slit-forming member into said elastic member.

28. (New) A storing structure according to Claim 27, wherein said slit-forming member is comprised of a release cap.

29. (New) A storing structure according to Claim 28, wherein said release cap is in contact with an absorbing member at a side opposed to said ink jet head.

30. (New) A stored ink jet head comprising:

an ink jet head, wherein said ink jet head comprises a nozzle for discharging liquid, a liquid storing portion for storing the liquid to be supplied to said nozzle, and a liquid introduction portion for introducing the liquid into said liquid storing portion from exterior, said liquid storing portion being divided into a first chamber communicated with

said nozzle and a second chamber communicated with said liquid introduction portion by a filter;

a storing member to contain said ink jet head; and

a cap for covering a nozzle face of said ink jet head in a non-contact state with respect to the nozzle face,

wherein said liquid introduction portion is provided with an elastic member having a slit,

wherein ink not including a color material is contained in said nozzle of said ink jet head and air is present in an area other than said nozzle in the ink jet head, and

wherein air in said ink jet head is capable of moving between an interior of the ink jet head and an exterior side of said ink jet head through said slit.